

SYNONYMY OF *TENONIA PRIOPS* (HARTMAN)
(POLYCHAETA: POLYNOIDAE)

Jeannette L. Barreca

Abstract.—The polynoid worms, *Harmothoe priops* Hartman, 1961, and *Tenonia kitsapensis* Nichols, 1969, are the same species. *Tenonia priops* is found in soft sediments from northern Washington to southern California.

Scaleworms from two sites off Whidbey Island in Puget Sound, Washington (Benedict, in preparation) were identified as *Tenonia kitsapensis* Nichols, but also fit the description for *Harmothoe priops* Hartman. After comparing the holotype and other specimens of *Harmothoe priops* from southern California with paratypes of *Tenonia kitsapensis* from Puget Sound, I have concluded that the two species are synonymous.

Tenonia priops (Hartman, 1961), new combination

Harmothoe priops Hartman, 1961:50-51; 1963:3; 1966:193-194, 215, 267, 320, 402, pl. 1, figs. 4-6.

Tenonia kitsapensis Nichols, 1969:205-208.—(Polynoidae sp. I) Lie 1968:272, 286, 295, 317.

Material examined.—WASHINGTON: Pratt's Bluff, Puget Sound, 10 m in sandy mud, 22 Aug 1980, A. Benedict, collector, 2 specimens, Huxley College 152.1.288.—Port Madison, Puget Sound, 28 m in fine sand, 22 Oct 1965, F. H. Nichols, collector, 4 paratypes (*Tenonia kitsapensis*), USNM 38264. CALIFORNIA: San Francisco Bay, 38-39 m in silty fine sand, 6 Jun 1973 and 3 Oct 1973, F. H. Nichols, collector, 10 specimens, FN 44.—Santa Barbara Point, 25.6 m in silt, 21 Nov 1957, R/V *Velero IV*, holotype (*Harmothoe priops*), AHF, sta 5402-57.—Point Dume, 50 m in silty clay, 14 Dec 1975, R/V *Velero IV*, 2 specimens, AHF, sta 23981.—Long Beach, 33 m in silty mud, 3 Feb 1977, R/V *Thomas G. Thompson*, 1 specimen, AHF, sta 81902.

Remarks.—*Tenonia priops* is a member of the subfamily Harmothoinae with 15 pairs of elytrae and less than 40 segments. All setae are slender and similar in thickness; superior neurosetae are unidentate, inferior neurosetae are bidentate. Members of *Harmothoe* Kinberg, in contrast, have thick notosetae, bidentate superior neurosetae, and usually some unidentate inferior neurosetae (Fauchald 1977).

The setal illustrations attributed to *Harmothoe priops* in Hartman's (1968) monograph are actually those of *Gattyana brunnea* Hartman. Illustrations of both species had previously appeared together in plate 1 of Hartman 1966.

Hartman (1961) describes this species' bidentate, subacicular neurosetae as "slightly thicker" than the capillary-tipped supra-acicular neurosetae, while Nichols (1969:208) states that "all setae are of approximately the same thickness (5-10 μ m)." Notosetae from most specimens I examined are approximately 6 μ m

wide at their thickest points (up to 7 μm in the largest specimen). Capillary-tipped neurosetae vary from 5–9 μm , but are usually 6–7 μm wide. Mid-parapodial bifid neurosetae are slightly thicker than the capillary-tipped neurosetae in all specimens, varying in width from 6–11 μm , usually 8–9 μm . Within the bifid neurosetae series, the inferiormost setae are shorter and slimmer than those surrounding the acicula.

Because *Tenonia priops* fragments easily, the maximum length and number of segments are undetermined. Worm lengths of 7–8 mm were reported in both original descriptions of *T. priops*. One 23-setiger specimen I examined is 10.5 mm long; it is estimated that if entire, the specimen would be at least 12 mm long. Hartman (1961:50) states that "segments may not number more than 39." Nichols (1969) and I have not seen a specimen with more than 33 setigers.

Tenonia priops is widest anteriorly, tapering posteriorly. Hartman (1961) did not include the worm's long neuropodial lobes in width measurements of 0.7 mm, while Nichols (1969) must have included them to record widths of up to 3.2 mm. The holotype (*Harmothoe priops*) is 0.9 mm wide without parapodia, and 1.9 mm wide with parapodia at setiger 4. The greatest widths measured in this study are 1.3 mm excluding parapodia, and 3.4 mm including parapodia.

Dorsal pigment patterns of the Whidbey Island specimens are very similar to those of the California specimens. Wide, dark bars stretch across the middle of segments, and narrower bars cross intersegmentally. The ventral cirri of the first setiger (which are inserted at the base of the parapodia, unlike those of the remaining setigers) resemble the tentacular cirri and are likewise pigmented. The prostomium bears speckles posteriorly, and scars on the elytra are pigmented. Specimens from Port Madison, which had been stored for years in formalin (Nichols, personal communication), lack pigment.

Distribution.—*Tenonia priops* is found in soft sediments in Puget Sound and vicinity from 2–70 m, at 40 m in San Francisco Bay, and in southern California from 8–170 m.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Philip Lambert of the British Columbia Provincial Museum, and to Sydney Cannings and Dr. Paul G. Harrison of the University of British Columbia for use of facilities; also to Cheryl Bright, National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Frederic H. Nichols, U.S. Geological Survey, and Susan J. Williams, Allan Hancock Foundation (AHF), for sending specimens. Susan Williams (AHF) and Judith A. Fournier (National Museums of Canada) kindly reviewed the manuscript.

Literature Cited

- Benedict, A. [In preparation]. Intertidal and shallow subtidal benthos of northern Puget Sound: Summer 1980.—Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympia, Washington.
- Fauchald, K. 1977. The polychaete worms—definitions and keys to the orders, families, and genera.—Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Science Series 28, 190 pp.
- Hartman, O. 1961. Polychaetous annelids from California.—Allan Hancock Pacific Expeditions 25: 1–226.
- . 1963. Submarine canyons of southern California. Part III. Systematics: Polychaetes.—Allan Hancock Pacific Expeditions 27(3):1–93.

- . 1966. Quantitative survey of the benthos of San Pedro Basin, southern California. Part II. Final results and conclusions.—Allan Hancock Pacific Expeditions 19(2):187–456.
- . 1968. Atlas of errantiate polychaetous annelids from California.—Allan Hancock Foundation, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 828 pp.
- Kinberg, J. G. H. 1855. Nya slägten och arter af Annelider.—Öfversigt af Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar 12:381–388.
- Lie, U. 1968. A quantitative study of benthic infauna in Puget Sound, Washington, USA, in 1963–1964.—Fiskeridirektoratets Skrifter Serie Havundersøkelser 14(5):229–556.
- Nichols, F. H. 1969. *Tenonia kitsapensis*, a new genus and species of the family Polynoidae (Polychaeta) from Puget Sound (Washington).—Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 82:205–208.

2128 Arbutus, Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 3X8, Canada.